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TERMS AND NOTICES.

The RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER is published weekly, at the Office of Messrs. BARNES & Co., St. John, N. B.

TERMS—$2.00 per annum.

☞ PAYMENT IN ALL CASES IN ADVANCE.

JOSEPH MCLEOD,..... .....EDITOR.

☞ All Communications for insertion should be addressed, JOSEPH MCLEOD, Fredericton.

☞ Remittances may be sent to either Messrs. BARNES & Co., St. John, N. B., or to the Editor, at Fredericton.

Religious Intelligencer.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 24, 1871.

A WRONG NEEDING A REMEDY.

Can a church live and thrive without a Prayer meeting? We think not. It is impossible. It may drag along a miserable existence, half alive and half dead. But to be strong, healthy and active without a regularly held and well sustained meeting for prayer, is an utter impossibility. And yet there are scores of churches that are trying to live after this sort. Vain effort. The sooner a change is made the better. The plea is made that in country districts it is not practicable. We fail to see the force of the plea. Admitting that they cannot conveniently hold meetings so often as in towns and cities, it certainly must be possible to meet once in every week between the Sabbaths. Let an Evangelist commence a series of meetings in any of our country districts, and how many are there who cannot find both time and conveyance to attend the services? Very few. Why are these same persons not able to give one evening regularly in every week to a similar purpose? We could point to more than one church which, during a season of revival of several weeks duration, has held meetings every evening, and often in the day-time as well, but as soon as the "special effort" was over, has given up all but the Sabbath services. It was good to hold special services; but was not the falling off very sudden and very great? Perhaps a score or more of persons were converted during the revival, and were taken into the church. Were they not injured seriously by so great a decrease in the number of meetings for worship? Certainly they were; it could not be otherwise. We cannot understand what the older and more responsible church members can be thinking about when they allow such things to happen. Some of them urge the excuse that they have no pastor to lead them: an excuse without weight. A prayer meeting does not depend on a pastor. One can be held where there is not even a church. Neither does it depend on the assembling of a large number of people. The Lord's presence is not exclusively confined to a large congregation: His blessing is not for the multitude; but where "two or three are" in His name, there He is. If churches without pastors would even maintain their existence, if they would aid the spiritual growth of young converts brought into their circle through the labours of some zealous itinerant, they must not "forsake the assembling of themselves together" in prayer meeting, just as often as practicable; and that is certainly more frequently than once or twice each Sabbath. Try it brethren, and we venture to say you will find the experiment a profitable one.

But then there are churches with pastors that do not sustain weekly prayer meetings. The cases are not so rare as they are strange. Some pastors say they cannot sustain in some communities a meeting on a week night: no one will attend it. They say they have made every effort in their power, but have failed. What is the cause? The preacher says it is the fault of the people,—the people say it is the fault of the preacher. There is this fact to be considered—*the prayer meeting is especially the people's meeting.* The pastor cannot sustain a prayer meeting in spite of the people, but the people can sustain one in spite of the pastor. Grant that the pastor is dull, cold, uninteresting: Does that hinder the church members from meeting together for prayer and social worship? Not at all. They may live so near to the Lord, and have so much love in their hearts that the warmth will either quicken the cold preacher into new life, or make their company so uncomfortable for him, that he will seek a more congenial atmosphere. A good, lively prayer meeting, regularly held, is what every church may and ought to have. The lot of the pastor who has oversight of a church that is without such meeting, is a hard one truly. He must necessarily be haunted the greater part of the time with discouraging thoughts; is consequently shorn of his strength, and his efforts are, in a very slight degree, if at all, productive of good.

We hold that there is no excuse for the absence of the prayer meeting. Which ever is in fault—pastor or church—the church being a majority of many against one, have the remedy in their own hands.

It is a lamentable fact that the most trifling things keep people away from meetings for prayer. If our loved Sovereign should issue a proclamation saying that on a certain day she would be in this Province, and that she wished her subjects to meet her at a certain place, how eager all would be to go. No obstacle would be too great to surmount. And if she proclaimed also that she would confer on each a favour, and the value of the favour would be in proportion to the earnestness in asking, how earnestly each would make his request. No one would doubt her word: all would believe she meant to do as she said, and would act accordingly. But here is the King of kings, the Sovereign over all sovereigns, with resources inexhaustible, and He says He will be wherever His people meet. Ought we not to believe Him and go to meet Him? He also says He will grant our requests. Ought we not to believe Him? "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together": "Ask and ye shall receive." The first a Scriptural injunction, the other a precious promise falling from the lips of the blessed Jesus Himself. Can we afford to pay no heed to these? No! They don't know how much they lose who neglect the house of prayer. Let Christians be anxious to go to the place of supplication, and there pour out their desires before the Lord, resting assured that He who promised is faithful to fulfil His promises.

*** Current advices from Utah represent the power of Mormonism as so evidently declining, under the influences now at work, that the leading Mormons talk more than ever of another migration. The trouble is to determine where they can go, and be secure from intrusion.

*** Five years ago the Methodist Church had no church, congregation, or membership in Sweden. Now there are twenty-one missionary workers, with a lay membership of over two thousand, and rapidly increasing. The progress of the work there is of the most gratifying character, and the future is full of promise.

DENOMINATIONAL.

REV. J. I. PORTER'S REPORT.

Dear Bro. McLeod—Knowing that you and the readers of the INTELLIGENCER are always glad to hear from our ministers, and of the welfare of our beloved Zion, I write at this time.

First of all, I must speak of our great affliction and loss in the death of our beloved Bro. Sullivan. Yes, Bro. Sullivan is dead! Our ministerial ranks are broken; our working force, small before, is much weakened. I feel lonely and sad, now that a brother soldier has fallen at our side. May his mantle fall on some whom the Great Captain shall enlist to enter our ranks, who shall be as faithful and successful as he. We also hear with deep sorrow of the death of Edward,* Bro. Sullivan's second son. Surely, Sister Sullivan's cup of affliction is overflowing. We do earnestly pray that the sure and sufficient grace of God may support her. May she fully realize the God of her salvation to be the "Father of the fatherless, and the widow's friend."

We deeply sympathise with our brethren in Cornwallis; how great their disappointment, how much they must feel their loss. May the Lord send them help, and overrule all for his own glory and the good of his cause.

I am laboring with the Port Latour, Pubnico, Shag-Harbour, and Centre Section of the Second Barrington churches.

As Brother Downey informed you, we held a few special meetings at Centre Barrington, which resulted in quite a general reviving of the church, and the addition of five by baptism.

As Brother Weston informed you, special meetings have been held at Pubnico since the session of Quarterly Meeting held there in February last, Brother Weston and I remained, after the Quarterly Meeting, about a fortnight, excepting that we left to attend our regular appointments on Sabbath; then Bro. Weston was taken sick, and had to return home, leaving me alone with the brethren to carry on the work; but the Lord continued to revive us. Professors generally were greatly revived; upwards of twenty professed conversion, and others are seeking the Lord. I have baptized and added nine to the Free Baptist Church. Others ought, and I trust will, be baptized soon, as Bro. Weston has returned to-day, and will hold meetings a few days longer.

No doubt some will be baptized and join the C. Baptist Church as soon as their minister is with them to attend to it; he was with us a few days the first week, and rendered valuable assistance, but has not been with us since.

I am pleased to see by the INTELLIGENCER that many of the ministers in your Province receive such substantial tokens of sympathy from their friends. Perhaps it would not be amiss for me to mention, in this connection, that I am not forgotten by my friends. A few weeks ago I lost my horse, and a few days afterwards the friends on my circuit collected and handed me the handsome sum of $130.50 to repair my loss.

A few days ago a few of the sisters of the Port Latour church, representing their Pastor's Aid Society—and this Pastor's Aid Society is a *very good thing*—made us a friendly visit, and left about fifteen dollars' worth of useful articles. These visits are made more than once during the year. We received a similar visit last year.

May the Lord enable me to labor more successfully in his vineyard, seeing he careth for me.

J. I. PORTER.

Barrington, March 9, 1871.

* We are glad to know that the rumor of the death of the son of our late Bro. Sullivan is incorrect. He was very low, and was scarcely expected to recover; but a letter from Brother Woodworth, dated the 8th inst., says "he is now quite well, so he is able to be out."—[ED. ISTEL.]

REV. J. B. BARNES' REPORT.

Dear Bro. McLeod,—It is now some time since I closed my labour with the churches on the St. John River, and up to this time you have had no report from me. I thought it best to wait until I arrived at this Island before writing. As you know, I had the charge of the churches in Geary, Oromocto and Lincoln for the last twelve months ending the first of February, 1871. Some few weeks after General Conference last fall, I held a few special meetings in the settlement formerly known as the Cogswell Settlement (but now as Waterville), and as this was the first effort that had ever been made for revival in that community, it was not long before the work of the Lord began to prosper. Some sinners found peace in believing, and some others who had found the blessing of God in other lands, but had backslidden, were restored, and they, with some few that had been mourning over the sad state of the people of this community, did rejoice greatly that the Lord had in mercy granted them the blessing of a revival. A branch church of twelve members was organized, and subsequently one more was added. This branch is in connection with the church at the mouth of the Oromocto. A branch church was organized last July at the Victoria Settlement, which is in a prosperous condition; it now numbers twenty-five in all. The whole number added to our denomination on the circuit during the year was forty-nine,—thirty-six by baptism and thirteen that had been baptized before, but had not been united to our people. There was also a number taken into the branches that had been members of other of our churches. It is a very interesting field of labour, and I was sorry to part with the dear brethren and sisters, as they were so anxious that I should remain with them another year. But I hope they may be supplied by some faithful man of God. Some of the churches are not in so prosperous a condition as could be desired; they are weak, and are not what they should be. Nevertheless there are even in the weakest good God-fearing men and women, who are looking and praying for the prosperity of Zion. In relation to the care and kindness we received from them all we cannot speak too highly; and it affords me much happiness to say that *all*, yes *every dollar*, was paid me before I left; and in addition to that, not less than one hundred dollars of a donation. These things speak for themselves. On the morning of the 13th of Feb., we left our many dear friends for St. John. We had a very pleasant ride to Fairville. The next evening we attended meeting with Bro. Hartley, who is improving some in health. On the morning of the 16th, Brother Daniel Clark took Mrs. Barnes and children to the steamer "New Brunswick," and at 8 o'clock we left St. John for Lynn, Mass. We had a long but pleasant passage, and we arrived in Lynn on Saturday morning, after a passage of some fifty hours by steamboat and rail. We met old friends, and were happy to find them in good health. I visited Beverley, Boston and Malden. The first Sabbath we spent in Lynn, and listened to a good sermon from the Rev. Mr. Smith (Methodist) in the morning, and Mr. Holmes (Baptist) in the afternoon. A good revival is in progress in Lynn in the Methodist church. We found a few Free Will Baptists also, and attended a meeting with them on Friday evening. The second Sabbath I spent in Boston. I went to Tremont Temple to hear the Rev. Jacob Knapp, the great revivalist, who is now having a revival in the above place. We enjoyed the meeting very much; saw many of our old friends, some we had not seen for years. On Monday noon I left my loved ones in Lynn for Portland by rail, and thence by steamboat, and arrived at Eastport the next day at 12 o'clock, noon, and found a home at the house of Bro. Jonas Milneux. I met with Bro. Taylor, who was on his way to Campobello, where he is about to hold some meetings, and thought there was some prospect of revival. On Thursday we landed on this Island, after a passage of six hours, tired and weary. We received a very warm reception from the friends, and at once entered upon our work with this people. The churches are low and scattered, but we hope for better days. Brethren, pray for us.

Yours, brethren in the Gospel,

J. N. BARNES.

Grand Manan, March 7, 1871.

HOME MISSION REPORT.

Dear Bro. Hartley.—Another month of my Missionary tour has passed, calling for my report. The cause of religion on Deer Island has been considerably revived; the brethren and sisters are much encouraged; since my last report four have joined the church, and others we think will soon join. The future prospects of this little branch of Zion is encouraging. I have been laboring with Elder Taylor (on Campobello, at Wilson's Beach,) a few days, and to the praise of God be it said, we have seen a number of wanderers reclaimed, the church much encouraged and strengthened, and sinners enquiring the way to Zion. I purpose remaining here a few weeks, the Lord willing.

I have received for the Mission from the brethren at Deer Island $38.65.

Yours in hope,

SOLOMON SMITH.

Wilson's Beach, Campobello, March 12, 1871.

RESOLUTION.

To the Rev. G. A. Hartley, Secretary of the F. C. B. Home Mission Society of New Brunswick.

DEAR BROTHER—At a meeting of the F. C. B. church worshipping on the Portage, Parish Grand Falls, C. Co., it was unanimously—

Resolved, That we express, through you, our unfeigned thankfulness to the Board of Missions for remembering us in our low state, and for sending our beloved Bro. Elijah Gray to preach to us the unsearchable riches of Christ.

And we thank our Heavenly Father that He has blessed his labours among us in reviving His cause and in the conversion of sinners.

Signed in behalf of the church,

GEO. A. BROWN, } Deacons.
ED. MONTGOMERY, }

Little River Mills, March 13, 1871.

UPPER MILLSTREAM.—Bro. B. A Sherwood writes from this place on the 12th inst.:—

The Lord has been good to us here. Our Conference meetings especially have been fraught with deep interest and spiritual union. Two young men recently professed faith in Christ, and are waiting an opportunity for baptism.

DONATION.—As we anticipated, Bro. McDonald's friends have "called" on him. Bro. C. A. West, writes:—

I had the privilege of meeting with three hundred friends of the Rev. G. W. McDonald, at the Free Baptist Meeting House at Sloat's Mills, on Tuesday last (the 14th inst.), to pay him a donation visit. They gave him $106.31; $80.31 of which was cash. We spent a very pleasant evening. Speeches were made by brethren Fulton, Harris, and Porter, and G. W. White, Esq., M. P. P., and others. J. F. Adams and choir, furnished excellent music. The proceeds were handed to Bro. McDonald by the Chairman, accompanied by a few remarks, to which Bro. McDonald replied feelingly. The meeting was dismissed by singing the National anthem. It was the first donation up here without refreshments, and it was a grand success.

FIVE POINTS, COVERDALE.—Rev. W. S. Pennington, who has been laboring at this place for some time, informs us that there has been considerable awakening among christians, and there is a prospect of an ingathering. Bro. P. is now at home, but purposes returning to Coverdale soon, intending to labour with that and some churches adjacent, till next Conference. There is a large section of country there which has been sadly neglected by our denomination, and we are glad to know that there is prospect of an improvement.

LETTER FROM REV. YERXA WHITE.

Dear Bro. McLeod—Thinking that my friends in the Province would like to hear from me, I thought I would send you a few lines for the INTELLIGENCER. It is more than two years since I left New Brunswick, and came to this place. For the most of the time my health has been very good, but for the last six months it has been very poor. Yet, through suffering and infirmity, I have been able the greater part of the time to work for my Master. My family have also had much sickness during the fall and winter. But we yet all live, for which I thank God. This is a lumber district; and many of the men are in the woods and on the stream three-fourths of the year; and I assure you, the lessons they learn there are not very favorable to religion. Sabbath breaking, profanity and licentiousness are sins practiced almost without a blush, and with none to rebuke. There are a few weak churches here of the different denominations, viz., Baptist, Freewill Baptist, Congregationalist and Methodist; but in all of these the state of religion is very low. Still in all, thank God, there are a few that are sighing over the abominations that are done in the land.

The great majority of the people call themselves Universalists. This is also the most wealthy class. The fact is that, with the most of them, their religion is only a cloak, a pretence, enabling them more comfortably for the time being to still the upbraidings of a guilty conscience, and live without God or hope in the world. Whether it was right for me to come here, I have not always been able to decide. But I believe that nowhere does it need a faithful man of God more. I have labored hard, suffered some by persecution, and have seen some souls converted; and upon the whole do not regret that I came to this place. The month of January I spent very pleasantly. First I attended the Freewill Baptist Quarterly Meeting at Houlton, met many old friends, and felt it good to be there. Then I visited Woodstock, attended several meetings with Bro. G. T. Hartley, found the state of religion very low, and the people scattered; I felt badly. My prayer is—God send them prosperity. I think they ought to have a good pastor. Bro. Hartley, and a number of others that I visited, were very kind to me, for which I feel grateful. From Woodstock I went to see my old field of labor at the Presqueisle. On my way, called upon old friends at Wakefield, Simonds, and Williamstown. Found dear Bro. Rideout at Wakefield, quite weak, and confined to the house, yet still hoping and trusting in God. Hope the good friends in Wakefield, and other places, will see that his temporal wants are supplied, and God will reward them at the resurrection of the just. I found Bro. McDonald at the Presqueisle, hard at work, and the church prospering. Many that experienced religion while I was with them, are still living, and many that were strangers to God then, have, under Bro. McDonald's labors, come to the Saviour. I spent the Sabbath with them, had a good time, and left. Here Bro. McDonald and kind friends made me a present of a good warm overcoat, for which they have my thanks. Everywhere I went, and in almost every house, did I receive tangible evidence of the love of friends. The Lord reward them on that day when he shall say, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my servants, ye have done it to me."

Y. WHITE.

Lee, Maine, March 18, 1871.

"WHY SIT WE HERE TILL WE DIE."

Paris has at length surrendered, but it was not until famine had exhausted all their energy, and death looked them full in the face, not until even the rats and horses had been well nigh consumed by the hungry people, who rose each morning to cry, "Would God it were evening," and who at each evening sighed, "Would God it were morning!"

How much like their resistance of an enemy, is the sinner's resistance of the Friend who besieges his heart with the offers of love.

He waits until his food is the husks of sorrow and adversity, until his rags cry out for help, until he has "wasted his substance" in the world's pleasures, and when he is "perishing" with want, or pain, or danger, he yields his hand to the besieging Spirit that has long invited him to the Father.

The verse at the head of this article, was the utterance of the four lepers, in the Old Testament, who sat at the city gate, and saw the camp of the attacking army close at hand. "And they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now, therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die."

So there are many in every community, feeling the heart-leprosy of an unsatisfied soul, and they are sitting, undecided, between the world and Christ. They feel that if they give themselves to the world, there is only "famine" there, and if they "sit still" undecided, they will "die also;" and there sometimes comes the decision,—

"I can but perish if I go,
I am resolved to try,
For if I stay away, I know
I shall forever die."

If they do thus go, of all their host of fears, they will find like the lepers only empty camps. Difficulties, like the Syrians, will have been put to flight by the horses and chariots of the Lord, that are round about his followers. They will find, instead of danger, that they can enter into God's camp, and "eat and drink, and carry thence silver and gold and raiment." And then, in the rich enjoyment of love, they will long to tell the glorious news. "Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day is a day of good things, and we hold our peace: now, therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household."

If we have in us the abundance of the heart, "the silver and gold," and are clothed upon with the "raiment" of Christ, we shall not "hold our peace," but tell the tidings to all the household of the Great King. With all the "famine" behind you, and the "gold, and silver, and raiment" before you, some who read this are sitting at the gate of decision. "Why sit ye here till ye die?"

We hear recently from the dwellers on Mt. Washington, of a terrible night of anxiety and dread in their mountain home. With the thermometer at 55 below zero, and the gale blowing at the rate of one hundred miles an hour, they waited in suspense for the result. As the strong arm of the gale shook the house like a baby's rattle, and bent the walls as it leaned against them with its terrible shoulders, they expected every moment that the next blow of this battering ram of the storm would overturn the house, and send them with it down the mountain-side. Such a night of dread is only paralleled by the despairing dream, which men sometimes have when they seem to be falling forever into the darkness of empty air.

But many an unconverted man lives constantly in just such a home as that of the mountains. Every gale of danger brings its suspense and dread of the future. Whenever the rain descends, and the floods come, in sickness, or peril, or moments of thought, he fears that his house will fall, and yet he lives in this daily suspense.

Why, dear friend, "sit ye here till ye die?"

No corner-stone of Christ, no foundation on the Rock, no house "eternal in the heavens," and yet you sit in dread amid the bending boards and cracking walls of indecision. You are waiting, and thinking that you will be converted before you die. The cold hand of death will grasp the Divine hand, through which the strong hand of our life has driven the nails. The transfigured lips of our dying moments will accept Him, whom the lips in health have pierced with ridicule and rejection.

Better, nobler, to go forth to the camp, and have in life the "gold and silver and raiment, of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost," and in death the "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

You are still at the gate of decision. "Why sit you here till you die?"—*Zion's Herald.*

REVIVALS IN BOSTON.

A Boston correspondent writes, Marth 12th.:—"There has been quite a religious interest manifested in the different churches of Boston of late. The first Free Baptist church has been greatly increased, and there is a gradual awakening. Last Sabbath the pastor, Rev. Mr. Tracey, baptized two, and more are coming forward. The pastor is working hard, and there is a prospect of a rich harvest. The F. B. church in South Boston has been more abundantly blessed. Sabbath before last twenty were baptized, and great interest prevails. In the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian churches the interest has also been marked and encouraging. The advocates of Temperance have also been awakened to a sense of their duty, and are working hard, morally and politically, for the overthrow of the demon intemperance."

We shall be glad to hear from our young friend again.—ED. ISTEL.

STATESMEN OF CANADA.

(Continued.)

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD,

the Premier of the Dominion of Canada, would not strike one at first sight as being possessed of such distinguished ability as we know he has. He is of an average height, very spare, not by any means robust in appearance, clean-shaven, with dark-brown hair, parted on one side, somewhat wavy, with rather a large development of the nasal organ, a broad forehead and a full flashing eye; of a pale wan complexion and features longer than broad. Your readers are, doubtless, well aware that nearly a year since he fell victim to a sickness which laid him so low that several times his life was despaired of. Although quite recovered, his constitution has been considerably shattered thereby, and his present appearance would not seem to betoken much greater length of political life. As a speaker he is not generally fluent; when aroused, however, he speaks with much animation and power, his arguments being lucid and perfectly intelligible to every one. Ordinarily, his voice cannot be distinctly heard from the galleries. Sir John was born in Sutherlandshire, Scotland, in the year 1814, so that he is now about fifty-seven years of age, and emigrated thence in 1820, to Kingston, Ontario. At the early age of fifteen he commenced the study of law, with the leading barrister of the above city, and at the age of twenty-one was called to the bar, and succeeded at once to the large practice of the lawyer under whom he studied, he having died. He very soon gave unmistakable indications of his genuine sterling abilities, and so early as the age of twenty-five he was retained in all the most important cases of litigation. In 1841 was consummated the Legislative Union of what was then Upper and Lower Canadas. In 1844 Sir John was elected to represent Kingston in the second united Parliament, and in 1847 held the important position of Commissioner of Crown Lands, in which charge he surpassed all his predecessors, it was said, in promptitude and sagacity in disposing of them. He has always been conservative, and the leader of that party for many years. In Canada, as in England, land had been early apportioned to the church, which were denominated the "clergy reserves." These were for a time claimed as belonging exclusively to the Church of England, but the Church of Scotland maintained obstinately its right to a part of them,—a claim which, upon being referred to twelve judges in England, was conceded to them. Soon after this a measure for the transference to the State of all lands which had been reserved for the use of the church was carried, and this vexed question, which had so long agitated the public mind, was set for ever at rest. Sir John, who at first ardently favored the "clergy reserves," when he perceived the manifest wishes of the majority of the people, gave way, and united in supporting both the above measures. It would be imposing too much on your space to mention at all in detail the great questions and reforms in which Sir John took an active part, in many, if not in all cases, yielding his own grounds and views to the weighty voice of public opinion. In this way he conceded his views, and voted for the bill which enacted that the Legislative Council should gradually become elective. While, however, the provisions of this bill were being carried out, a measure was brought in, about the time of the Confederation of the Provinces, to do away with the Legislative Council altogether; since which time there has been but the one branch of Legislature in Ontario. In my next paper I propose to take up others of our leading statesmen.

PHILO.

REVIVAL NEWS fills four columns of the last number of the *Religious Telescope*, (Dayton, Ohio.) The number of conversions and accessions to the churches is exceedingly large.

A GREAT PARIS PRINTER AND HIS MEN.—Before the war M. Paul Dupont, the great Paras printer, carried on a business of 5,000,000 francs a year. He divided ten per cent. of the net profits among the workmen, according to their individual merit, and not in regular proportion to their different salaries. This house, says Mr. Thurlow's recent report, has followed this course for twenty years, and claims the first place in the application of one of the happiest and most successful ideas of modern times. Each new hand, on admission, receives a silver medal worth five francs as a badge of office and line between him and his employer. This establishment has its sick and provident funds of all the usual kinds, its loans of honor to its workmen, its *Caisses de Retraite*; its savings banks, its schools, libraries, reading familisterie, gardens, baths, in short everything of modern days for promoting health, wealth, happiness and religion. To use the words of M. Dupont himself. "It is more than a workshop; it is a family, composed of a thousand persons."

PASSING EVENTS.

THE JOINT HIGH COMMISSION are busily at work, and so far as is known are getting along most harmoniously. Report says they have agreed as to the Fisheries question, but what are the terms of agreement has not yet transpired. The feeling throughout the whole Dominion is strongly against yielding to the United States any right to fish in waters now considered Canadian. Of course our neighbors would like such privilege, and perhaps think they are justly entitled to it; this is not surprising, however, as they would like to have unrestricted use of the whole world and its belongings; though upon what is based so much assumption is hard to determine, unless it be excessive selfishness and self-esteem. It is supposed, though, that Sir John A. Macdonald will look sharply after the interests and honor of the Dominion; at least this is the hope. Nothing is yet known of their discussion of the Alabama claims. The removal of Senator Sumner from the Chairmanship of the Committee on Foreign Affairs was evidently a wise act on the part of President Grant. Though it has caused an outcry from some quarters, it is generally well received, and is accepted as evidence that the Administration does not hold his (Mr. Sumner's) extreme views on the Alabama difficulty. We shall hope for a sensible and satisfactory adjustment of all matters of difference between two countries that ought, above all others, to be on the most friendly terms.

FRANCE AND GERMANY.—The German army is making its way home as fast as possible. There will, of course, remain a force as a sort of bond until the indemnity money is paid and the other conditions of peace carried out. Napoleon has written a letter to the French Assembly protesting against the act of that body in declaring his dynasty to have forfeited all right to govern France. He signifies his willingness to submit to the voice of the people; and it is a question whether, in their cool moments (if they have any), the people would not declare in favor of his restoration.

Since writing the above, the despatches inform us that Paris is in a most deplorable state. Pillage and murder are reigning. The mob have seized Generals Chauzy, Lecomte and Clement Thomas, and shot them after a mock trial. Up to the time of writing they had been hourly gaining in strength, and under the leadership of Gen. Duval threatened to do yet greater deeds of violence and blood. The Government have issued proclamations in hope to stay the depredations of the insurgents, but in vain. The regular soldiers seem to be in sympathy with the mob. Unhappy France! Her own people her greatest enemy. It is not at all improbable that the German troops may have to enter Paris to defend the French Government, save the city from destruction, and the peaceable citizens from the outrages of bloodthirsty hordes. We refer our readers to the despatches, which will give the most reliable information up to the hour of going to press.

THE FREE SCHOOL principle has been emphatically endorsed by Charlotte county. Mr. Stevenson's majority over his opponent was over 700. The question at issue—direct taxation for schools—was fairly put before the electors, and every vote cast for Stevenson was a voice in favor of Free Unsectarian Schools. Mr. Hibbard, who exerted himself to the utmost to defeat the Surveyor General, has concluded—so he said in his speech on declaration day—that the figures at the close of the poll were against him, consequently in favor of the free school system. Though personally opposed to the principle he has determined to carry out the wishes of his constituents by giving it his support; and he hints that other members who are opposed to the Government will do the same. It will be well if this is so. York, by the return of Mr. Hatheway, spoke unmistakably in favor, for Mr. H. very plainly stated his position in the matter. Queen's now has a chance of letting itself be heard. Mr. Babbit was an advocate of free schools; and in filling the vacancy made by his resignation it is to be hoped that Queen's will show beyond a doubt what it wants its representatives to do. The Government is evidently determined to put the question through or fall with it. The country was never so well prepared for it as now. Public sentiment has been turning more and more in favor of it every day; till now the majority see the reasonableness of a system that, so far as a common school education goes, puts all classes on an equal footing, giving the children of the poorest and the richest a common advantage.

THE CENSUS is soon to be taken. On Monday, April 3rd, the Enumerators throughout the Dominion will commence their work. We have before us a copy of the Instructions to the officers employed in taking the census. As the census is for the purpose of ascertaining, as nearly as possible, the exact population and resources of the country, the importance of correct returns must be apparent to everybody. A true statement of facts is what is required, and it should be the ambition of each to assist in obtaining such statement. A great many people have imbibed the notion that the facts elicited from them may be used to their disadvantage in the way of taxation, etc. The Enumerators, with all other census officers, are sworn not to divulge any individual information received, hence there need be no fear on that ground. It is the duty of the Enumerators to get the exact population, and also the facts concerning the capabilities and wants, the advantages and defects of the country; and it is the duty, and the interest as well, of the people to aid these officers. This they can do only by promptly and correctly answering the questions arising out of the headings in the schedules. In the Act authorizing the census, any person refusing the required information subjects himself to a penalty. It is desirable that the returns should be just as accurate and complete as possible.

BEECHER'S OPINION OF ENGLAND AND HER QUEEN.—In a sermon preached by Henry Ward Beecher, he paid the following noble tribute to Queen Victoria and the English nation. He said:

"Which is the strongest throne on the globe to-day? Why, the English, unquestionably; partly because a noble, virtuous and illustrious woman sits upon it. The proudest Sovereign in the world to-day is Queen Victoria. She dignifies womanhood and motherhood, and she is fit to sit in Empire. That is one reason why the English throne is the strongest. But that is not the only reason. It is strongest also because it is so many legged. It stands on thirty millions of people. It represents the interests of the masses of its subjects. Another reason why England is the strongest nation is because it is the most Christian nation; because it has the most moral power. It has more than we have. We like to talk about ourselves on the Fourth of July, we love to fan ourselves with eulogies; but we are not to be compared to-day with Old England. I know her surly faults; I know her stubborn conceit; I know how many things are mischievous among her common people; but taking her up one side and down the other, there is not a nation that represents so much Christianity as Old England. If you do not like to hear it, I like to say it! And the strongest power on the globe to-day is that kingdom."

The News and the Press.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 24, 1871.

BREVITIES.—The Fredericton City Council have voted in favor of the appointment of a Police Magistrate.—W. O. Smith, Esq., died on the 26th inst. He was Mayor of this city for a number of years.—Seamen are scarce at this port just now. High wages are in consequence offered.—A box, containing the bodies of two infants, was found in the Church of England Burying Ground the other day.—Rev. Mr. Spencer, Seaman's Chaplain, in this Port, received a donation of $210 from his friends last week.—Mr. Chandler Robbins, of Chebogue Point, Yarmouth, has a goose's egg, twelve and a-half inches in circumference, and weighing thirteen and a half ounces.—Rev. J. T. Parsons preached a Temperance sermon in Indiantown last Sunday.—A lad named Carr, working in Mr. A. Peters' Tannery, had his foot dreadfully mangled the other day, by being caught in the bark-mill. It is feared amputation will be necessary.—The River is open in several places.—Lumbermen say they have yet large quantities of logs on the "yards," which they will be unable to get out now that the snow is gone.—In Georgetown, P. E. Island, William Wilt, for killing Mrs. James McCullum, and James R. Douglas, has been sentenced to four years imprisonment with hard labour.—John Annier and Daniel McDiarmid for killing Louis Nicholas, have also been sentenced to four years.—A cheese factory is about being built at Sackville.—A breach of promise case lately occurred in Great Britain, in which the gentleman was the plaintiff.—The St. John Street Railway has proved to be a most unprofitable concern.—Miss Eliza Howe, aged 50 years, fell down stairs in the house of a friend on Princess street on Monday, and was killed.—A hundred pound nugget was recently found in Australia.—There are now at the various educational institutions of the United States over 200 Japanese youth, mostly of the higher classes.—An inebriate asylum, for women only, is to be established in Pennsylvania.—Rumors continue in circulation that a Pontifical crusade is in course of preparation, for the restoration of the temporal dominions of the Pope.—The cost of the war in France, outside of Paris, is estimated officially at 1,100,000,000 of francs, but this does not include "damages" of any kind.—A proposition in New York Legislature to make St. Patrick's Day a legal holiday was defeated last week by an overwhelming vote. Even the Irish members voted against it.—Last year's lumber crop in Wisconsin was over two hundred and fifty million feet.—Boston has subscribed $173, 215 for its proposed Museum of Fine Arts.—The crows have already returned to their northern fields of labor, and this is considered a token that we are to have no more cold weather.—The heaviest rains experienced for years in the Southern part of California have fallen recently.—Early vegetables are reported at the South as coming forward from two to three weeks earlier than usual.—Further troubles are reported in Mexico. A defalcation of $1,000,000 is charged on the Treasury. Outrages on American citizens are stated to have occurred at several points.—The production of lead from the Missouri mines in 1870 was 14,128, 721 pounds.—It is now stated that there are over 100 female lecturers in the United States, and the number is increasing every month.—The people of Maine are agitating the question of replanting their stripped lumber districts, large parts of which are unavailable for farming purposes.—A species of cattle plague has broken out among horses and cattle in and around Paris, and much damage is threatened.—The United States Mint coined last year $32,257, 312 gold, and 1,757,253 silver.—There has been a very severe earthquake in the Sandwich Islands. Some damage was done to property, but no loss of life is reported.—Serious mob disturbances are reported in various parts of Spain. There have been fatal collisions between the troops and the people.—The small-pox is again making great ravages among the Indians and the white population of the Rocky Mountain regions.

ASSIMILATION OF THE CURRENCY.—We have to congratulate our readers on the virtual accomplishment of this important measure. The Government have carried their Resolutions in the Commons, and the Senate, no doubt, will concur without a division. An item will probably appear in the supplementary estimates, to cover the expense of removing coin now in Nova Scotia. The Bill will go into operation on the first of July.—*Tel.*

The *Borderer* states that it is the intention of the Telegraph Company to prosecute the parties who broke the wires at Memramcook last week to admit of a building being moved across the railway track. The result of the vandal act was to cut off all communication of the Dominion and United States with Ottawa for over a day.

THE SMALL POX.—On Wednesday one new case on Duke street was reported. One house on Brussels street was again thrown open. One convalescent was discharged yesterday. The outside cases remain at eighteen; in the "Home" twelve, three or four of them being well and waiting to be discharged.—*Tel.*

POTATOES.—The *Telegraph* says: During last week there was a large shipment of Potatoes to the United States, a circumstance that had not occurred for some time past. The result has been a rise in the market here equal to thirty or forty cents per barrel.

A LARGE CARGO.—On Saturday the ship *Denmark* cleared at the Custom House for Liverpool, with one of the largest lumber cargoes ever sent out of this port, including the following:—550 tons birch timber; 1,826,638 feet deals and ends; 74,127 feet scantling; 13,325 pieces palings; 1 cask glassware; 13 packages furniture. The *Denmark* had been consigned to George Thomas, Esq., and was loaded by Messrs. McLachlan & Wilson and Wm. Gardner.—*Tel.*

NEW STEAM SAW MILL.—Mr. George W. West, of Haverhill, Mass., has leased the Mill Property on Campbell Street, and intends erecting thereon a building 40x46 feet, two stories high. Mr. James Agnew has taken the contract for the work, the whole of which is to be completed, and the Mill ready for work in July. The operations of the Mill are to be confined to the manufacture of Railway Sleepers, Shingles and Clapboards.—*Fred. Farmer.*

ANOTHER RAILWAY.—Mr. J. McG. Otty, C. E., proposes the construction of a narrow gauge railway from Pugwash to the Spring Hill Mines, Cumberland Co., N. S., intersecting the Intercolonial road at River Philip. He believes it can be built and equipped for $240,000 for the whole 80 miles. The country through which it would pass is favorable to the construction of a cheap railway, and its advantages would be very generally felt.—*News.*

EARLY PLOUGHING.—The season is unusually far advanced. Mr. William Johnson, son of Mr. Robert Johnson, Oak Bay, ploughed all day on the 14th of March, a circumstance which we believe is without precedent in this county.—*St. Croix Courier.*

LOSS OF YARMOUTH VESSELS.—A cable despatch to the owners 18th inst., announces the ship *W. H. Moody* abandoned at sea 9th, and the captain and crew arrived at Liverpool. The *W. H. M.* from Liverpool bound for Philadelphia, and was commanded by Capt. David Hilton. She was 686 tons register, and was owned by Messrs. W. H. Moody & Sons, H. & J. Sims, B. Crosby, W. J. Hatfield and W. H. Gridley, of Yarmouth. The ship was insured as follows:—Marine Office. $8,000; Pacific, $6,000; Atlantic, $6,000. Freight insured $4,000 in Pacific.

The brig *Charles Albert*, of and for Liverpool, N. S., from St. Thomas, in ballast, has been wrecked off Ragged Islands. Crew saved.—*News.*

A collier named George White was killed some days ago at the Victoria Coal Mines, Cape Breton, by the falling on him of a heavy mass of stone.